

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

--1. Field of The Invention--.

4 Between lines 7 and 8, insert:

--2. Description of the Related Art--

7 Page 2, between lines 3 and 4, insert the heading:

--OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION--.

10 Between lines 33 and 34, insert the heading:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

13 Page 3, between lines 32 and 33, insert the heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.

16 || Page 4, between lines 19 and 20, insert the heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

19 Copies of pages 1-6 showing the amendments as entered on pages
20 1-4 are enclosed.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

INTEGRAL LENS ATTACHMENT, SUNSHADE AND CAMERA LENS COVER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

5 This application is a United States filing from PCT Appl. Ser.
6 No. PCT/US02/31097, filed September 27, 2002, which claims priority
7 from United States Provisional Application No. 60373170, filed
8 April 16, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

11 || 1. Field of the Invention

12 · The present invention generally relates to a camera lens
13 attachment, and more particularly to a lens attachment assembly
14 which provides for the convenient use and transport of filters,
15 lens assemblies, protective lens covers, and variable position
16 sunshades.

17 || 2. Description of the Related Art

18 Most cameras in use today, whether video or still,
19 provide as part of their lens assembly, a threaded, cylindrical
20 attachment ring at the terminus of the lens assembly, to allow for
21 the attachment of filters, additional lens, protective lens covers,
22 sunshades, and the like.

23 One of the primary difficulties inherent with this
24 conventional design is that a camera user must remove and store or
25 carry the filter, lens, or other such attachment when not in use.
26 This repeated mounting and dismounting of accessories is
27 inconvenient and time consuming.

28 Frequently, in the course of filming or taking pictures, a photographer will find himself in need of a sunshade to block the

1 sun or other light from directly impinging upon the lens. To be
2 truly effective, a sunshade must be capable of being positioned at
3 a desired angle and orientation respective to the lens. The lens
4 attachment of the present invention provides for a sunshade to be
5 positioned selectively about the perimeter of the lens, and at the
6 desired angle relative to the lens.

7 When finished filming, the photographer needs to use a
8 lens cover to protect the lens of the camera from damage and dirt.
9 This array of lens covers, sunshades, lens attachments, filters,
10 and the like, results in the photographer being burdened with
11 carrying and storing a veritable collection of attachments.

12 The lens attachment of the present invention provides a
13 combination of these multiple elements in a convenient arrangement
14 which can be removably coupled to the camera body and unfolded in
15 various positions when a particular element is needed for use.

16 It will be understood that the invention is equally
17 applicable to view cameras and video camcorders. Whenever either
18 term is used herein, it is intended to encompass the other.

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20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

21 It is an object of this invention to provide an improved
22 camera lens attachment which will overcome the numerous
23 disadvantages inherent in prior camera attachment systems, and all
24 the while providing the photographer with quick and convenient
25 access to his camera lens.

26 It is a further object of the present invention to
27 provide easy and rapid installation or removal of a desired lens
28 attachment. Such lens attachment could be a wide angle adapter, a
zoom-through converter, a close-focus achromatic diopter, or other

1 of a variety of well-known lens attachments.

2 It is also an object of the present invention to enable
3 the photographer to easily apply or remove a protective lens cover,
4 without necessitating the photographer to carry a separate camera
5 case to store the lens cover.

6 It is a further object of the present invention to
7 provide the photographer with a sunshade which can be used to
8 shield the lens from the sun or other light source. Furthermore,
9 this sunshade is provided with the convenient ability to be rotated
10 about the axis of the lens to any desired position around the
11 perimeter of the lens. In addition, the sunshade is able to be
12 positioned at a variety of angles in order to enhance its abilities
13 and function.

14 In an alternate configuration, the lens attachment of the
15 present invention may be fitted with additional sunshade
16 components. Such sunshades may be coupled to the attachment frame
17 in order to permit rotation and adjustment for any situation.

18 Additional objects and advantages of the present
19 invention will become apparent as the description proceeds.

20 The integral lens attachment device of the present
21 invention comprises three primary elements. First, a frame
22 element, incorporating a threaded adapter ring for mounting to the
23 lens of a video or still camera. Second, a lens housing for
24 providing an additional lens, filter, or other such attachment.
25 And third, a cover component which serves dual function as both a
26 protective lens cover and a variable position sunshade.

27 The lens housing and the cover component are hinged to
28 the rim of the frame element. Additional sunshade components could
also be separately hinged to the frame at various positions. The

1 device cover and lens housing may be pivotably mounted to the rim
2 of the frame element with hinges.

3 The frame element may be attached to the end of a camera
4 lens by the threaded adapter ring. The position of the frame
5 relative to the adapter ring is adjustable. The frame element may
6 be rotated to transport the lens cover and sunshades to another
7 position around the periphery of the lens.

8 The frame element may be provided with at least one
9 locking notch on its periphery. Such notches enable the frame to
10 securely lock onto the camera lens adaptor ring.

11 In another configuration of the present invention, small
12 magnets may be added at various positions along the perimeters of
13 the device cover (or sunshade), the frame element, and the lens
14 housing. The presence of such magnets will aid in providing the
15 ability for the sunshade and lens housing to remain in the desired
16 opened or closed position.

17 In another embodiment of the present invention, the
18 additional sunshade components, that may be hinged to the assembly,
19 may be outfitted with panels that may be extended in order to
20 increase the effective size and coverage of the sunshades. Such
21 panels may be coupled to the sunshades to make them extendable.
22 The panels may be connected to the sunshades by way of pivot pins.
23 Retaining pins may protrude from the sunshades through tracks in
24 the panels in order to hold and guide the panels along their path.

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26 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

27 A better understanding of the present invention may be
28 realized from a consideration of the following detailed
description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings,

1 in which:

2 FIG. 1 is a front view of the lens attachment of the
3 present invention, with the lens cover component in the fully
4 closed position;

5 FIG. 2 is a rear view of the present invention in the
6 closed position;

7 FIG. 3 is a side cutaway view of the present invention in
8 the closed position;

9 FIG. 4 is a side cutaway view of the present invention
10 with the lens housing in the closed position, and the lens cover
11 component in the open, or sunshade, position;

12 FIG. 5 is a side cutaway view of the present invention
13 with the lens housing in contact with the lens cover component in
14 the open position; and

15 FIG. 6 is a side cutaway view of the present invention
16 with the lens cover component in the open position and the lens
17 housing in an open position located between the lens cover
18 component and the frame element.

19 FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the present invention
20 configured with additional sunshade components employing extendable
21 panels for added performance.

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23 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

24 As can be seen in FIGS. 1-7 of the drawings, the lens

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